United Nations A/63/129

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 July 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Item 92 (g) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Fellowships on disarmament were awarded to 30 officials in 2007 and to 25 officials in 2008. Responding to the United Nations efforts to promote gender mainstreaming, Member States nominated more women candidates for the programme. As a result, 12 women participated in the programme in 2007 and 14 women will participate in the 2008 programme. In 2007, the programme lasted from 27 August to 31 October. The 2008 programme is scheduled to be carried out from 25 August to 25 October.

The programme of studies continued to be structured in three segments. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is primarily to introduce the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. In 2008, the fellows will also participate in a study visit organized by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The second segment comprises study visits to: intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament; Member States, at their invitation, including study visits to Germany, Japan and, in 2007, to China; to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna; and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague. The third segment, held at United Nations Headquarters, is intended to familiarize the fellows with the work of both the First Committee and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. This segment also includes seminars organized by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

* A/63/50.

08-42291 (E) 040808

To date, the programme has trained 759 officials from 159 Member States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme continues to enhance disarmament expertise in Member States, particularly developing countries, promote greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and contribute to better understanding the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1	3
II.	Programme of fellowships on disarmament	2–18	3
	A. Fellowships for 2007 and 2008	2–4	3
	B. Programme of studies	5–18	5
III.	Conclusion	19–21	7

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/91, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme had continued to be carried out and requested him to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-third session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. Fellowships for 2007 and 2008

2. Thirty fellowships were awarded in 2007 to the following officials:

Ms. Ivis Noçka	Albania
Mr. Christopher David King	Australia
Mr. He Zhi	China
Ms. Mihaela Baric	Croatia
Mr. Nikolaos Michaelides	Cyprus
Ms. Yvonne Mbiya Ilunga	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ms. Ketlin Süsmalainen	Estonia
Mr. Ray Kini Baleikasavu	Fiji
Ms. Anne-Cécile C. Violin	France
Ms. Alexandra Ellen Goelz	Germany
Ms. Freda Oforiwa Peprah	Ghana
Ms. Sheree Omeria Chambers	Jamaica
Mr. Toshiyuki Hayashi	Japan
Mr. Mohammed Sameer Salem Hindawi	Jordan
Ms. Neo Mary Mokatsa	Lesotho
Mr. John Twapalizya Kabaghe	Malawi
Mr. Zeenad Abdul Wahid	Maldives
Mr. Madou Diallo	Mali
Mr. Murad Baseer	Pakistan
Ms. Justyna Magdalena Bartkiewicz	Poland
Mr. Kyoo Ho Lee	Republic of Korea
Ms. Carolina Popovici	Republic of Moldova
Mr. Petre Alexandru Stamatescu	Romania

Ms. Karen Galokale	Solomon Islands
Mr. Reto Wollenmann	Switzerland
Mr. Abdulmaola Al Nuqari	Syrian Arab Republic
Mr. Elyes Lakhal	Tunisia
Mr. Oleksandr Kapustin	Ukraine
Mr. Fernando Sandin-Tusso	Uruguay
Mr. Gayrat Yuldashev	Uzbekistan

3. Twenty-five fellowships were awarded in 2008 to the following officials:

Mr. Mustapha Abbani	Algeria
Ms. Yulia Lyashuk	Belarus
Ms. Dyane B. Aguidissou	Benin
Ms. Anna Vassileva	Bulgaria
Ms. Angela Estrada Jimenez	Colombia
Ms. Heba Negm	Egypt
Ms. Nardos Ayalew	Ethiopia
Mr. Jaime Leonel Brito Hernandez	Honduras
Ms. Luna Amanda Fahmi	Indonesia
Mr. Amir Masoud Ejtehadi	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Mr. Shinji Yamashita	Japan
Ms. Florence Kinya Kaberia	Kenya
Mr. Phonesavath Phonekeo	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Mr. Ahmad Arafa	Lebanon
Ms. Onipatsa H. Tianamahefa	Madagascar
Ms. Sandra Garcia Loredo	Mexico
Ms. Asmae Derkaoui	Morocco
Mr. Moustapha Abdou	Niger
Mr. Ashar Shahzad	Pakistan
Mr. Raúl Martinez Villalba	Paraguay
Mr. Nicolae Comanescu	Romania
Ms. Dragana Mladenovic	Serbia
Ms. Chwane Nomcebo V. Mthethwa	South Africa
Ms. Supapan Tiapiriyakij	Thailand
Mr. Agossou Kokouda Bocco	Togo

4. Over the years, the United Nations efforts to promote gender mainstreaming have resulted in the steady increase of female candidates in the programme and, subsequently, in the number of fellowships granted to them. During the biennium 2007-2008, 26 fellowships were granted to women, compared, respectively, to 24, 19 and 13 fellowships in the three previous bienniums.

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2007, the programme lasted from 27 August to 31 October. In 2008, the programme is scheduled to be carried out from 25 August to 25 October. The programme of studies is structured in three segments: (a) activities at the United Nations Office at Geneva; (b) study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament and to Member States, at their invitation, and (c) activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The activities of the 2007 programme are summarized below. The 2008 programme will generally follow the 2007 syllabus, with updates to reflect recent developments in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation.

First segment

6. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament, particularly those serviced by the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and acquainting them with Geneva-based research institutions dealing with disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. This is accomplished through attendance at meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and participation in lectures by senior representatives of States members of the Conference, the substantive staff of the Geneva branch and senior representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Geneva International Peace Research Institute and similar institutions. In 2007, the fellows also had the opportunity to attend a seminar on preventing the spread of weapons to non-State armed groups organized by UNIDIR. In 2008, the fellows will also participate in a study visit to Bern organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, during which they will be briefed on Swiss security policy issues and the contributions of Switzerland to nuclear and conventional arms control.

7. While in Geneva, the fellows are also required to conduct research and to write the first draft of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament and international security. Research papers are finalized before being introduced and discussed during the New York segment of the programme.

Second segment

8. The second segment of the programme comprises study visits to three intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament: the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), both of which are based in Vienna, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

which is located in The Hague. In addition, this segment includes study visits to Member States, at their invitation.

9. At the study visit to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, fellows are briefed on the history of and the current political situation related to the Treaty, the current work of the Preparatory Commission, its verification regime, the activities of the International Monitoring System and the Conference on Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of the Treaty. The visit includes also a guided tour to the new operations centre of the International Data Centre.

10. The study visit to IAEA in Vienna comprises presentations and briefings on practical and legal aspects of the Agency's safeguards system and nuclear safety activities, including the security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources and the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database. Fellows are also briefed on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

11. At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, fellows are briefed on the mandate and the work of the organization, the genesis and the status of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the verification procedures of the Convention, the work of the inspectorate and the inspection process, international cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention and the role of national authorities in the implementation of the Convention.

12. In keeping with a tradition spanning more than 25 years, Germany and Japan have continued to invite participants in the programme on study visits to national institutions and to seminars with officials of the respective Governments. The study visits provide the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the national policies and work of the two Governments in the fields of arms limitation and disarmament. In 2007, participants in the fellowship programme have also been invited for a study visit by the Government of China.

13. The study visit to Germany in 2007 included briefings by and a round table discussion with senior officials of the Division for Disarmament and Arms Control of the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, a meeting with the Chair of Parliamentary Subcommittee for Arms Control and Disarmament of the Bundestag and a meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations. The visit also included a highly informative guided visit to a conversion plant in Pinnow, where fellows were briefed, inter alia, on the environmentally friendly methods of destruction of weapons and munitions. The study visit to Germany in 2008 will include similar activities.

14. The Government of Japan and the administrations of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continued to organize valuable activities for the fellows in 2007. In Tokyo, the fellows were briefed by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Japan's disarmament policy and met with senior officials from the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. In Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the fellows met with local officials and visited sites commemorating the atomic bombings at the end of the Second World War. In Nagasaki they visited the Atomic Bomb Museum, the Peace Park, the Atomic Bomb Home for the Elderly and the National Peace Memorial Hall. In Hiroshima the fellows visited the Atomic

Bomb Dome, the Children's Peace Monument and the Peace Memorial Museum. The fellows also met with survivors of the atomic bombings and heard lectures on the social and medical legacies of those events. The study visit to Japan in 2008 will include similar activities.

15. In 2007, the Government of China invited the participants in the programme for a study visit, which included briefings by and discussions with senior officials of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and senior representatives of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, which coordinates academic and non-governmental research and activities regarding arms control and disarmament. The fellows also visited the China Institute of Atomic Energy.

Third segment

16. The third segment of the programme is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and is intended to familiarize fellows with the mandate and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly. The segment includes a series of lectures by the senior staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs on the responsibilities of its branches, briefings by the Chairman of the First Committee and by members of delegations on items on the agenda of the Committee and regular attendance at meetings of the Committee. The fellows also attend symposiums and panel discussions sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament.

17. In 2007, fellows took part in a two-day seminar organized by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies on various aspects of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, measures to respond to emerging proliferation threats and nuclear terrorism. They also took part in a simulated round-table discussion on major challenges to non-proliferation.

18. In New York, the fellows participate in discussions on a selected disarmament topic, moderated by the coordinator of the programme, and take part in a practical exercise on preparing, submitting and taking action on draft resolutions for the First Committee of the General Assembly. The exercise includes a discussion of the drafts prepared by the fellows, the introduction of amendments and, lastly, the process of taking action on draft resolutions. In addition, the fellows finalize their research papers and make short presentations on their main theses, which are discussed by the entire group of fellows.

III. Conclusion

19. Launched in 1979 as a follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session in 1978, the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament is aimed at expanding and promoting expertise in disarmament in Member States, particularly the developing countries. During its 30 years of operation, the programme has trained 759 officials from 159 States. Many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments and their Permanent Missions to the United Nations and represent their Governments at various disarmament meetings and conferences. The large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the broad support of the biennial resolutions on the United

Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services is a testimony of the undiminished interest of Governments in the programme. The role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats for participation in arms control and disarmament deliberations and negotiations is recognized and appreciated by the Member States. The fellowship programme on disarmament was identified by the Office of Internal Oversight Services as the most successful United Nations training programme it had reviewed (see E/AC.51/1999/2, para. 61).

20. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme of fellowships on disarmament continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, and to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels. The programme also plays an important role in facilitating better understanding of disarmament and security concerns of Member States and in fostering progress in disarmament, arms limitation and non-proliferation. The Secretary-General also notes with appreciation the increased number of female candidates nominated for the programme over the years and, subsequently, in the number of fellowships granted to them.

21. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. The Secretary-General extends his particular appreciation to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme, as well as to the Government of China for organizing the study visit in 2007 and the Government of Switzerland for organizing a study visit in 2008. The Secretary-General is also grateful to IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies for their consistent support of the programme.